



DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

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DEQ seeks nominations for the 2009 Gulf Guardian Awards

BATON ROUGE – Each year the Gulf of Mexico Program, which is made up of the five states that border the Gulf and other partners, gives Gulf Guardian Awards to honor environmental leaders that protect the Gulf. The Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality is currently seeking entries for the 2009 awards, which will be given out in the fall.

As a partner with the Gulf of Mexico Program, DEQ is encouraging Louisiana residents to nominate citizens, companies and organizations who are striving to make an environmental difference in the Gulf. The Gulf Guardian Awards were developed by the Gulf of Mexico Program to honor individuals and groups from Louisiana and across the nation who are taking positive steps to keep the Gulf of Mexico healthy, beautiful and productive.

An example of a national Gulf Guardian winner is a project in Iowa that keep nutrients from getting into the Mississippi River and ultimately the Gulf of Mexico. The program developed 72 wetland areas that filter surface water and remove nitrates from farm fertilizer and end up in Gulf. An example of previous Louisiana award winners, is last years first place award winner, the Audubon Nature Institute's film, Hurricane on the Bayou.

The Gulf of Mexico Program created the Gulf Guardian Awards in 2000. Each year, first, second and third place awards are given in seven categories: business, government, civic/nonprofit, youth/education, partnerships, individual and bi-national

“Many people in Louisiana work hard to protect and improve the state’s coastal environment and these awards are a chance to recognize them for their efforts. The Gulf is a unique area that provides natural, economic and cultural riches to our state and nation” said Harold Leggett, DEQ Secretary “We want to encourage everyone to submit nominations.”

Entry forms for the 2009 Gulf Guardian Award are available online at www.epa.gov/gmpo/gulfguard.html. The deadline for nominations is May 15. Please complete the form and email it to gulf.guardian@epa.gov. For assistance with the application process or for more information call Dugan Sabins with DEQ at 225-219-3553 or email him at dugan.sabins@la.gov.

If you plan to nominate some group or individual for these awards, please notify Dugan Sabins at the above phone number or email address.